

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) A process of manufacturing ~~the a~~ coated body ~~defined in claim 1~~, comprising a substrate and a hard coating disposed on said substrate, wherein said hard coating has (a) a surface smoothed to have a roughness with maximum height Rz of not larger than 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$ , and (b) recesses each of which has a size of 0.5-6.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and is formed in said surface, said process comprising:

a surface smoothing step of smoothing a surface of said hard coating by using abrasive particles such that the smoothed surface has the roughness with the maximum height Rz of not larger than 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$  and such that said recesses each having the size of 0.5-6.0  $\mu\text{m}$  are formed in said surface of said hard coating,

wherein each of said abrasive particles used in said surface smoothing step is provided by a ~~soft~~ spherical-shaped core body made of a rubber and having a particle size of 0.1-2.0 mm, and hard abrasive grains each having a size of #3000-#10000 and adhering to an outer surface of said ~~soft~~ spherical-shaped core body.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein said surface smoothing step is implemented by a shot blasting operation in which said abrasive particles are applied to said surface of said hard coating.

9. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 7, further comprising:  
a coating forming step of forming said hard coating on said substrate in accordance with a PVD method such that said hard coating is provided by a solid solution including at least one of carbide, nitride and carbon nitride each of which includes at least one of metals which belong to respective groups IIIb, IVa, Va and VIa of the periodic table,

wherein said surface smoothing step is implemented to eliminate ~~macro~~ particles each of which has a size of 0.5-6.0  $\mu\text{m}$  and has ~~have been~~ generated on said surface of said hard coating in said coating forming step, ~~such that said surface has the roughness with the maximum height Rz of not larger than 1.2  $\mu\text{m}$  and such that said recesses each having the size of 0.5-6.0  $\mu\text{m}$  are formed in said surface of said hard coating.~~